

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 002996

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PRM/WRA RICHARD KIDD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [PTER](#) [ETTC](#) [MASS](#) [YM](#) [DEMARCHE](#) [COUNTER](#) [TERRORISM](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR DELIVERS ARMS BROKERS DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 163140

Classified By: Ambassador Thomas C. Krajewski for reasons 1.4 b and d.

1. (S) Summary. On October 16, Ambassador, along with UK Ambassador Michael Gifford, delivered ref A demarche to Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Qirbi expressing concern over the continued use of Yemeni arms dealers to procure weapons on behalf of the Ministry of Defense (MOD). He noted that MOD appears to be purchasing assault rifles in numbers that far exceed their existing requirement. Ambassador acknowledged ROYG efforts to inform supplier countries of President Saleh's March pledge to cease using third-party arms dealers, but stressed that more action was needed to control the importation of small arms/light weapons (SA/LW) ahead of Saleh's November visit to Washington. Qirbi requested further information on the firms and individuals involved, promising ROYG action "on any information you give us." Qirbi said that he "is not surprised" that people are trying to "get around" ROYG policies on SA/LW purchases. End Summary.

-----  
Continued Use of Arms Brokers  
-----

2. (S) Ambassador informed Qirbi that the USG received information that Yemeni arms dealers are attempting to purchase massive quantities of SA/LW and related ammunition from various foreign suppliers. He highlighted two deals, one with a Bulgarian firm to import thousands of AK-47 assault rifles and another with a Belarussian firm to import tens of thousands of Kalashnikov assault rifles. These deals, Ambassador continued, contradict Saleh's firm commitment to stop using third-party arms dealers to procure weapons on behalf of MOD. He also noted that MOD appeared to have direct knowledge of these deals, despite being ordered by Saleh to void all End User Certificates (EUC) previously issued to private dealers.

3. (S) Ambassador acknowledged ROYG efforts to inform supplier countries of Saleh's pledge, as well as working through international organizations to address the issue of SA/LW proliferation. Concerns, however, over MOD's continued use of private arms dealers will be discussed during Saleh's visit to Washington, said Ambassador. He reiterated that the USG would support the ROYG's legitimate military needs by helping destroy old weapons and creating an inventory system to better manage existing weapons stocks.

4. (S) UK Ambassador emphasized UK support for the joint demarche, saying that the continued use of arms dealers "affects our confidence in Yemen's ability to deliver on counter-terrorism issues." A regularized procurement system to meet MOD's legitimate military needs must be created, he continued, to stop weapons from ending up in the hands of terrorists.

-----  
Qirbi: We're Trying, Please Help  
-----

5. (S) Qirbi responded that Saleh's pledge still held, but added "I'm not surprised people are trying to get around our policy." He explained that all embassies were instructed not to approve any arms deals without first notifying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Qirbi requested details on the arms deals, saying the ROYG "will act on any information you give us."

6. (S) After asking the Ambassador's and his own notetakers to leave the room, Qirbi mentioned that the ROYG received intelligence on the Bulgarian deal through a Yemeni embassy (Note: Qirbi did not specify which embassy). He said a Bulgarian offered to sell information about the arms deals. A ROYG official requested a meeting to further discuss the issue, but the Bulgarian informant never returned. The embassy attempted to follow up but was unable to reestablish contact. On other ROYG actions to stop arms deals, Qirbi added that Yemen's two biggest arms dealers, Faris Mana and Ahmed Jerman, had been informed directly that they could no longer purchase weapons on behalf of MOD.

-----

Comment

-----

17. (S) Comment: Qirbi's comments indicate that some elements within the ROYG may be actively pursuing reports of the continued use of private arms dealers, when intelligence is received. Without support from MOD, however, intelligence and the ROYG's ability to stop such deals is limited. As seen during efforts to win Saleh's pledge against the use of third-party dealers, the most effective tool in securing Yemeni cooperation is to provide detailed information on both the Yemeni and foreign companies involved.

18. (S) Post requests detailed information on the arms deals and the companies involved to share with the ROYG in order to support their efforts to stop third-party arms deals. End Comment.

Krajeski